

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE
MARITIME SECURITY PROGRAM

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Merchant Marine Panel of the House Armed Services Committee, I rise today to address a matter under the jurisdiction of my panel which is of the utmost importance to the national security and the maritime capability of the United States, namely the need to reauthorize the Maritime Security Program (MSP).

The MSP program was established by the Maritime Security Act of 1996. The program was designed to maintain the continued presence of an active, privately-owned, U.S.-flag and U.S.-crewed merchant shipping fleet that would provide sustained sealift capability in time of war or national emergency. That Act phased out the operating differential subsidy program, provided reduced payments to vessel operators who agreed to make vessels and associated intermodal assets available to Department of Defense (DOD) upon request, and authorized \$100 million annually for MSP program funding. Without the MSP program, U.S.-flag vessel owners would have been forced to shift their operations to foreign flags with foreign crews in order to remain internationally competitive. This would have been detrimental to our national security interests.

The MSP has proved very successful. Today, 47 U.S.-flagged commercial vessels, crewed by U.S. citizens, participate in the MSP program. These vessels are engaged in the foreign commerce of the U.S. and are enrolled in DOD's Emergency Preparedness Program to ensure that such vessels and associated worldwide intermodal transportation and management assets are incorporated into DOD sealift plans and programs, and are immediately available to meet military sealift requirements. Without the MSP the cost to DOD would be substantial—approximately \$800 million annually would be required by DOD to provide similar sealift and related system capacity on its own for the rapid and sustained deployment of military vehicles, ammunition and other equipment and material.

Authorization for the MSP is for a ten-year period up through September 2005. To ensure the continued operation and viability of a maritime security fleet of privately-owned, militarily-useful U.S.-flag vessel operators, Congress needs to move forward with the reauthorization of the MSP. This would provide the industry with the timely assurance they need that the MSP program will continue beyond the year 2005.

Additionally, I am concerned over rumors that U.S. citizenship requirements for this program could be modified. I strongly believe that reauthorization of the MSP program must ensure that current United States citizenship requirements continue to apply for operators of U.S.-flagged, U.S.-crewed commercial vessels. The MSP program now requires that priority be given to MSP vessel operators that are owned and controlled by United States citizens (such operators are commonly known as "Section 2 citizens" under section 2 of the 1916 Shipping Act). Such U.S.-ownership and U.S.-control requirements are critical to the continued viability of the MSP program and must be preserved.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this vital effort to enhance the national security of the United States while ensuring that critically important U.S.-ownership standards are maintained.

DESIGNATION OF THE LEE H.
HAMILTON FEDERAL BUILDING
AND U.S. COURTHOUSE IN NEW
ALBANY, INDIANA

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to introduce H.R. 1583, a bill to name the Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in New Albany, Indiana, after my friend, mentor, colleague and the former Congressman of southern Indiana's 9th district, Lee Hamilton. I would like to thank State Representatives Bill Cochran and Jim Bottorff of the Indiana General Assembly for urging Congress to designate this building in honor of Lee.

Lee Hamilton served the people of southern Indiana with distinction for 34 years in the United States House of Representatives. In the course of his long career, he established himself as a leader in international affairs, serving as the chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee, the House Intelligence Committee and the Iran-Contra Investigation Committee. Lee was an honorable, forthright and trustworthy member of Congress whom we could always count on for a calm voice of reason as our nation dealt with foreign policy issues throughout the Cold War.

Lee Hamilton served as my Congressman from the time I was 12 years old until he retired in 1998. Lee's common sense leadership in Congress helped make southern Indiana a better place for Hoosier families to live and work for over thirty years. No matter how important he became out in Washington, we always knew he was working hard for us.

When Lee retired from Congress in 1998, Washington Post columnist David Broder wrote, "Hamilton is a throwback to the old days of the House and not just because he still has the crew cut he wore when he came to Washington as a small-town Hoosier lawyer in the Democratic landslide of 1964. He is an exemplar of the common-sense, instinctively moderate model of legislator that used to be common in Congress but is increasingly rare today."

Lee currently serves as the Director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC and the Director of The Center on Congress at Indiana University. He has received numerous public service awards including the Paul H. Nitze Award for Distinguished Authority on National Security Affairs, the Phillip C. Habib Award for Distinguished Public Service, the American Political Science Association Hubert Humphrey Award, the Indiana Humanities Council Lifetime Achievement Award, and the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress' Statesmanship Award.

I believe it is only fitting that we designate the Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in New Albany as the Lee H. Hamilton Building to pay tribute to his limitless dedication and service to the people of southern Indiana.

A TRIBUTE TO RAY GEORGE,
DARE DEPUTY FOR MONTEREY
COUNTY, CA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Ray George of the Monterey County Sheriff's Department and their Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. As you may know the DARE program helps bring a multi-faceted approach to staying away from drugs in the classrooms of 5th and 6th graders around the world. Deputy George is one of three full-time deputies assigned to the Monterey County DARE program, and it is for his recent fund-raising efforts that I wish to honor him here.

Mr. Speaker, the Monterey County DARE program, currently under Deputy George, Deputy Vince Hernandez, and Deputy Karen Gentile, was founded in 1993 by Deputy Fabian Barrera. In the past 8 years, they have coordinated with the local police departments through the county, as well as the schools to bring their courses that aim at helping young people face drug abuse in their lives. Some of the key topics they try to bring to their students include: building self-esteem; the consequences of drug use; decision making skills; recognizing and resisting peer pressure; techniques to say no; and ways to deal with stress.

Deputy George recently organized a black-tie fund raiser in Monterey, and his hard work was made clear with the success of this event. Everyone present that evening, myself included, felt that these deputies help bring a crucial message to our communities. Their dedication to this cause is commendable, and I would like to especially honor Deputy George for his commitment to excellence. The service of local officials such as these are an asset to our nation, and I thank the Speaker for this chance to honor them.

TRIBUTE TO BILLY DEFRANK LES-
BIAN AND GAY COMMUNITY CEN-
TER

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center of San Jose. On April 28th, the DeFrank Center will celebrate 20 years of service to the Santa Clara Valley.

The DeFrank Center opened on Keyes Street in downtown San Jose in 1981. Services in what was then a 2 room storefront included a hotline, counseling, and a switchboard. Today, the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Center serves a large and diverse community. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of all ages and backgrounds find resources here that are not available elsewhere. Each month over a thousand people visit the DeFrank Center's headquarters, and many more call the switchboard. Over 140 meetings, workshops, health programs and special events take place at the DeFrank Center each month.